

July 14, 2016

To: Ms. Karen Humes, Chief – Population Division

U. S. Census Bureau – Room6H174

Washington, D,C, 20233

From: Joyce Smith, N.D.

One would think that a good response – over 90% – would suffice the Bureau's request for 'public comment' regarding rules for incarcerated persons at their home address.

Not so! You've found a way to circumvent the process by proposing rules for the 2020 census that will allow you to continue this discredited practice. Since it doesn't come out of your pocket ... or cost the bureau a single penny ... it's an expense that taxpayers will be burdened with and unfortunately, one more way of wasting taxpayers' money!

As a resident of New York, we found that seven state senate districts only met population requirements because the Census counted incarcerated people as if they were upstate residents.

For this reason, New York State passed legislation to adjust the population data after the 2010 Census to count incarcerated people at home for redistricting purposes. And then, in the appeals process, a U.S. Federal Court recognized that legislators were drawing electoral lines by counting inmates ... giving themselves additional powers in their own districts! The Court acknowledged in their decision that “gerrymandering was a threat to electoral fairness” and ruled against its continued practice!

Your own Census Bureau was made aware of this problem a

decade ago, when a report (\*) it commissioned from the National Research Council found that its method for counting inmates distorted the political process and raised “legitimate concerns” about “equity and fairness in the census.” (\*) Another waste of taxpayers' money!

Until the Census Bureau changes the way it counts prisons, the principle of one person one vote will continue to suffer.

It's no wonder the public is frustrated with government ... there is no accountability for what taxpayers' money is paying for!